

HISTORIC & CULTURAL RESOURCES

This section describes principles and strategies intended to preserve the cultural and historic resources that give the community a unique identity, while weaving them into the ever changing fabric of the city. A century of experience suggests, and this plan assumes, that Lincoln will continue to grow and to change. The community's efforts to preserve historic and cultural resources is not an attempt to prevent change, but rather to channel it as a positive force. Preserving the best elements of our past can ensure that our community remains a special someplace, not just an ordinary anyplace. Understanding the triumphs, struggles, and missteps of our predecessors can inform our future decisions. Recognizing the rich tapestry of people who built this community can inspire us as we weave new threads into our social fabric.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

By exercising stewardship of city and county historic resources, support the community's distinctive character and desirable quality of life for current residents and for future generations.

Public property, especially publicly owned historic property, is a community trust and should be maintained, preserved, and utilized in an exemplary fashion. Most historic property is and should be privately owned and maintained.

As our understanding and appreciation of our community's history increases, a wider scope of historic research will be needed and a wider range of historic resources should be identified including both diverse standing structures, distinctive neighborhoods and regions, modified landscapes, and buried cultural materials.

The demolition of significant historic properties and destruction of other sites and distinctive neighborhoods diminishes the character of our community. The Plan encourages the continued use and maintenance of historic resources, including properties not formally designated as landmarks.

The 400-foot State Capitol is the key historic, architectural, and geographic landmark of the city and surrounding countryside. Views to the Capitol are highly valued by the people of Lancaster County and the State of Nebraska and should be protected and enjoyed for generations.

Lincoln and Lancaster County should work in partnership with state and federal historic preservation programs, but

local landmark protections are usually the most effective and appropriate. The community should continuously monitor and improve local programs and regulations, especially working to balance conflicting regulations that may threaten historic resources. City and county governmental policies should provide for the protection and enhancement of historic resources.

S STRATEGIES

Expand the community's historic preservation program to include Lancaster County through interlocal agreements among Lancaster County, the City of Lincoln, and other incorporated communities. Widen the scope of the mission and membership of the Historic Preservation Commission to include all of Lancaster County.

Continue to identify and maintain high value Capitol View Corridors and protect those views through regulations and guidelines. Structures that may interfere with these public corridors should be reviewed by the Capitol Environs Commission and a recommendation made within the context of their overall affect upon the view.

Conduct a county-wide survey to create a list of all historic sites and resources.

Seek incentives and regulatory support for the rehabilitation of existing buildings in order to make it more feasible to rehabilitate and continue to use older buildings.

Strengthen historic preservation ordinances and the Historic Preservation Commission for the purpose of protection of historic buildings.

Work to resolve conflicts between regulations that threaten historic resources, such as zoning designations in historic districts that do not align with original or current land use patterns.

Adopt as public policy the careful stewardship of significant, publicly owned historic resources, including a full and open examination of alternatives when major alterations or demolition are considered. Designation of such resources under the preservation ordinance would demonstrate leadership and standardize review of proposed changes.

Continue to inventory, research, evaluate, and celebrate the full range of historic resources throughout Lancaster County, collaborating with individuals, associations, and institutions, and designating landmarks and districts through the local preservation ordinance and the National Register of Historic Places.

Continue the educational outreach effort of the historic preservation program through tours, publications (including the City/County website), and presentations, to share the results of historic preservation and research with the broadest audience of residents and visitors.

Monitor local preservation efforts and local, state, and federal incentive programs, seeking to improve and apply the most effective tools for preserving, maintaining, and utilizing historic resources as active components of the community.

Include a procedure in the preservation ordinance for temporary protection of significant historic resources threatened with demolition, to allow time to explore and implement alternatives.

Support and participate in neighborhood, community, and statewide groups interested in historic preservation.

Discourage destruction of buried cultural resources either by vandals, looters, or insensitive construction.

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